

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The final Office Action of April 22, 2004 has been received and contents carefully reviewed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7-12, 18 and 19.

By this Amendment, Applicant adds new claims 20-23 and cancels claims 1-4, 6 and 13-17 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 7-12 and 18-23 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 7-12, 18 and 19 have been allowed. Also, new claims 20-23 depend from independent claim 19, which has been allowed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, claims 7-12 and 18-23, are in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: July 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


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